

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

IO-13 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 /070 W

-----201744 119333 /41

O 201515Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1950

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

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DEPT FOR ASST SECRETARY SOBER

DAMASCUS FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PROP, EG, UR, US

SUBJECT: APPARENT DISINFORMATION EFFORT IN EGYPT AGAINST U.S.

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REF: CAIRO 3079

1. COVER STORY OF FEB 21 LEFTIST ROSE AL YUSUF IS ENTITLED "DANGEROUS DOCUMENT: WHO WISHES TO BRING DOWN SADAT?" SUBTITLE IS "COMPLETE REPORT OF AMERICAN MEETING CALLING FOR CHANGE IN EGYPTIAN REGIME." EDITOR COMMENTS: "ROSE AL YUSUF TODAY EXPOSES U.S."

ROLE IN ATTEMPT TO UNSEAT SADAT AND THE U.S. INTERESTS THAT DEMANDED SUCH ACTION FROM ADMINISTRATION OF FORMER PRESIDENT FORD LAST MARCH:....PLOT AGAINST SADAT, FOR WHICH FIRES OF JANUARY 77 WERE PREPARATORY EXPRESSION, WAS DEBATED FOR FIRST TIME IN HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL MEETING HELD LAST YEAR IN DETROIT. ROSE AL YUSUF HAS OBTAINED COMPLETE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING, HELD ON MARCH 24, 1976 JUST AFTER RETURN OF FORMER TREASURY SEC SIMON FROM CAIRO. REPS FROM U.S. BIG BUSINESS ATTENDED AND USG REPRESENTED BY EDWARD YEO. FOLLOWING ARE FULL MINUTES OF DELIBERATIONS WHICH EXPLAIN MUCH CONCERNING PAST EVENTS AND RASIES QUESTION MARKS ABOUT FUTURE."

2. FULL TEXT OF ALLEGED DOCUMENT PRECEDED BY SUBTITLE: "U.S. MILLIONAIRES ASK FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW REGIME WITH ASSISTANCE OF CIA AND PROTECTION OF U.S. ARMY."

3. EXCEPT FOR FEW MINOR STYPLISTIC VARIATIONS ROSE AL YUSUF TEXT IS IDENTICAL TO TEXT OF USIS ATHENS FORGERY RECEIVED EARLIER BY GOE OFFICIALS. ROSE AL YUSUF TEXT FOLLOWS:

BEGIN QUOTE

ALLOW ME TO BRIEFLY OUTLINE OUR MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT SADAT, OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER EGYPTIAN LEADERS, THE RESULTS OF OUR TRIP, AND OUR IMPRESSIONS.

WE RECENTLY RETURNED FROM AN INFORMATIVE TRIP, DURING WHICH WE HAD CONSULTATIONS IN FIVE COUNTRIES IN THAT AREA. OUR DELEGATION WAS HEADED BY SECRETARY OF TREASURY W. SIMON. SIMILAR DELEGATIONS HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PREVIOUSLY VISITED THE MIDDLE EAST. THE INTEREST OF ALL OF US WHO VISITED THIS "EXPLOISVE AREA" WAS TO SECURE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, TO DIVERT SOME COUNTRIES FROM COMMUNIST INFLUENCE, AND TO ENSURE THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE FREE WORLD AND ALL MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES.

EGYPT WAS THE LAST STOP OVER OF MR. SIMON DURING HIS FIVE-COUNTRY TOUR OF THE MIDDLE EAST. IN HIS ADDRESS HE ASSERTED THAT ECONOMIC PROSPERITY IS THE BEST OBSTACLE TO WAR IN THAT AREA, AND CAN BRING PROGRESS ON THE ROAD TO PEACE, WHICH CANNOT BE ATTAINED THROUGH DIPLOMACY.

WE TOOK THIS STAND, BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT WE "KEPT OUR EYES OPEN." AT THE VERY BEGINNING, I MUST INFORM YOU THAT THE EGYPTIAN ECONOMY IS SUFFERING FROM A DEEP CRISIS, AND IS IN SUCH A DEPLORABLE STATE THAT NO ECONOMIC OR FINANCIAL INJECTION CAN AVERT ITS DIS-INTEGRATION AND BANKRUPTCY. EGYPTIAN PAYMENT DEFICITS ARE PRESENTLY IN EXCESS OF 5 BILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY, AND EVERTHING INDICATES THAT THEY WILL GO ON INCREASING. ITS FOREIGN INDEBTEDNESS AMOUNTS

TO AT LEAST 10 BILLION DOLLARS, IF NOT MORE. THERE WAS NOBODY IN EGYPT WHO WAS CAPABLE OF FURNISHING US WITH A MORE ACCURATE FIGURE.

THE "OPEN-DOOR POLICY" PROCLAIMED BY SADAT HAS HAD NO EFFECT UPON AMERICAN INVESTORS. THE OBVIOUS INCAPABILITY OF EGYPTIANS AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS TO DEFINE AND ENFORCE ACCEPTABLE LAWS AND REGULATIONS IS THE PRIME CAUSE OF THIS. ON THE OTHER HAND, EGYPTIAN LEADERS

ASSURED US THAT THEY ARE DETERMINED TO "CLEAR THE WAY," AND REMOVE OBSTACLES IMPEDING INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, THEY EMPHASIZED THAT THEY HAVE "A LONG WAY TO GO."

THE OPINION OF OUR GROUP, HOWEVER, IS THAT THE PRESENT EGYPTIAN ADMINISTRATION IS INCAPABLE OF ELIMINATING ALL THE DIFFICULTIES BLOCKING FREE ENTERPRISE AND FOREIGN INVESTMENTS. MY COLLEAGUE, GERALD PARKSY, WAS DECIDEDLY OPTIMISTIC WHEN, IN NOVEMBER 1975, HE BELIEVED THAT GOODYEAR AND FORD FACTORIES COULD BE BUILT IN EGYPT. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOT ONE IOTA OF THESE PLANS HAS BEEN REALIZED TO THE PRESENT TIME. THIS SITUATION ALSO AFFECTS OTHER COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY THE RICH ARAB NATIONS, AND DETERS THEM FROM MAKING CAPITAL INVESTMENTS IN EGYPT.

THE DISTRUST OF PRIVATE INVESTORS WAS CAUSED BY THE INCAPABILITY OF CAIRO TO FORMULATE SPECIFIC STANDARDS FOR MUTAL USA - EGYPT PARTNERSHIP, FOR THE FLOW OF PROFITS, AND FOR A REALISTIC EVALUATION OF EGYPTIAN CURRENCY IN COMPARISON TO THE DOLLAR. THERE IS STRONG CRITICISM ON THE PART OF INVESTORS CONCERNING TAX LIMITATIONS, TARIFFS AND CONTROLS ON THE IMPORT OF RAW MATERIALS ESSENTIAL TO PRODUCTION. CURRENT EGYPTIAN PRACTICE IS TO JUDGE THE PROBLEMS OF INVESTORS ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS, AND THEY MAKE EXCEPTIONS ONLY WHEN THEY CONSIDER THE CASE TO BE TO THEIR ADVANTAGE.

CONSEQUENTLY, IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT IN SUCH A SITUATION, EXCEPT FOR THE LARGE SCALE OIL EXPLORATION, THERE ARE NO AMERICAN INVESTMENTS IN EGYPT WHICH COULD BE CLASSIFIED AS SIGNIFICANT OR MAJOR INVESTMENTS.

I AM AWARE OF APPROXIMATELY 40 US FIRMS WHICH HAVE SHOWN INTEREST IN BUILDING FACTORIES IN EGYPT. ALL OF THEM, HOWEVER WERE REPELLED BY THE UNENDING NEGOTIATIONS WHICH, IN NOT ONE SINGLE INSTANCE EVER, RESULTED IN GOVERNMENT APPROVAL.

IN EGYPT, HOWEVER, IT DOES NOT ONLY INVOLVE THE AFOREMENTIONED PROBLEMS. I PREVIOUSLY STATED THAT WE "KEPT OUR EYES OPEN." WE WERE IN CAIRO FOR ONLY A BRIEF PERIOD. BUT EVEN A BRIEF VISIT THERE, SUPPLEMENTED BY PARLEYS AT THE US EMBASSY, EXPOSED THE DEPTH OF DISORDER AND INCOMPETENCY. EGYPTIAN LEADERS WOULD LIKE TO MAKE CAIRO THE MAIN COMMERCIAL AND POLITICAL CENTER OF THE

ARAB WORLD. THEY WERE PLEASED BY THE FIGHTING IN BEIRUT, WHERE
THEY SYMPATHIZED WITH AND SUPPORTED ONE OF THE COMBATANT GROUPS.
THEY HOPED THAT THE DISORDER IN BEIRUT WOULD BRING ABOUT THE
PROSPERITY OF CAIRO. BUT I WILL TELL YOU THAT PERHAPS
NOT ONLY BEIRUT, BUT ALSO ROME AND WASHINGTON WOULD HAVE TO BURN
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DOWN, FOR CAIRO TO PROSPER. CAIRO IS IN FACT A VERY ILL-EQUIPPED
CITY TO BE CAPABLY OF ASSUMING THE ROLE OF BEIRUT.

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CAIRO IS A DEGENERATING MUNICIPALITY WHERE MILLIONS
ARE LIVING IN POVERTY. COUNTLESS NUMBERS OF PEOPLE, AND I BELIEVE
THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF THEM, ARE UNEMPLOYED.
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THEY EKE OUT A BARE EXISTENCE BY SELLING NUTS, AND BALL-
POINT PENS ON BUSY STREETS. THE PEOPLE OF CAIRO ARE FACED
WITH AN UNCEASING FIGHT FOR THEIR MERE EXISTENCE. THEY EVEN FIGHT
FOR A SEAT OR A PLACE TO HANG ON THE SIDES OF STREETCARS.
THEY FIGHT FOR A PLACE IN LINES WAITING TO BUY FOOD. WATER
SUPPLY IS A CRUCIAL PROBLEM. IT IS NOT UNUSAL THAT AN APARTMENT
WITH A RENTAL OF 1,000 DOLLARS A MONTH, IS OFTEN FOR SEVERAL DAYS AT
A TIME WITHOUT WATER OR ELECTRICITY. TELEPHONE SERVICE IS
PRIMITIVE. ADEQUATE SCHOOLS HAVE A WAITING LIST.
IN SHORT, CAIRO IS NOT NOW, AND FOR A LONG TIME IN THE FUTURE
WILL NOT BE PREPARED FOR A SUBSTANTIAL TRADE OR INVESTMENT
ACTIVITY. THERE IS A CHEAP EGYPTIAN LABOR FORCE, BUT WITHOUT
ANY PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE. FOR THIS REASON, US INVESTORS WILL
HAVE TO SEND NOT ONLY CAPITAL TO EGYPT, BUT SKILLED WORKERS AS WELL,
AND THAT IS EXCESSIVELY EXPENSIVE.

LET US BRIEFLY RECAPITULATE WHAT I HAVE STATED, AND COMPARE IT
WITH THE NEEDS OF U.S. POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE REMOVAL OF
RUSSIAN INFLUENCE FROM EGYPT IS AN INDISPUTABLE VICTORY FOR
AMERICAN POLICY. PRESIDENT SADAT IS GRADUALLY DISSOLVING ALL TIES
WITH THE SOVIET UNION. IN THE INTEREST OF THE FREE WORLD, AND THE
U.S. ESPECIALLY, IT IS NECESSARY TO UTILIZE THE "OPEN DOOR"
AND GO INTO EGYPT. ARE WE CAPABLE OF THIS HISTORIC ACT?
GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS, LOANS EVEN GRANTS, CANNOT SOLVE
EGYPT'S ECONOMIC CRISIS. US PRIVATE CAPITAL CANNOT OPERATE UNDER
EGYPTIAN CONDITIONS. IT SIMPLY CANNOT - IT WOULD FACE BANKRUPTCY.
RICH ARAB OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES ARE IN A SIMILAR
SITUATION, AND IN ADDITION THEY HAVE ALREADY ELABORATED THEIR
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS. WHO THEN, WILL BE THE "SOLOMON" TO FIND THE
SOLUTION?

Q. MR UNDERSECRETARY, WHEN PRESIDENT SADAT "OPENED THE DOOR,"
WHY DIDN'T HE ALSO CREATE THE NECESSARY CONDITIONS?

A. I HAVE ALREADY STATED THAT THE EGYPTIAN ADMINISTRATION HAS
VERY LITTLE CAPABILITY, AND IN EGYPT THERE ARE NO FORCES WHICH COULD
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ALTER THE ADMINISTRATION. EVEN THOUGH EGYPTIAN LEADERS PROMISED US THEY WOULD "CLEAR THE WAY," I DON'T PLACE ANY HOPE IN THIS.

Q. I BELIEVE THE SITUATION IN EGYPT IS AS MR. UNDERSECRETARY HAS DESCRIBED IT. IF THIS IS TRUE, THEN THE ONLY SOLUTION THAT I SEE, IS IN A TOTAL CHANGE OF THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM. THAT, HOWEVER, IS NOT A QUESTION FOR US INDUSTRIALISTS AND FINANCIERS, BUT FOR HENRY KISSINGER AND GEORGE BUSH. LET THEM CARRY OUT THEIR WORK IN EGYPT, AND THEN WE CAN GO IN.

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING I COULD ADD TO THIS. IT WAS QUITE CLEARLY WORDED.

Q. WE ARE SELLING EGYPT SIX C-160,S (SIC). THERE IS INFORMATION THAT FORD HAS DECIDED TO SELL THEM ADDITONAL ARMS. HOW WILL CAIRO PAY FOR THEM? WON'T WE FINALLY END UP LIKE THE RUSSIANS? EGYPT IS ALLEGEDLY INDEBTED TO THEM FOR 6 BILLION DOLLARS. TO BE SURE, WE ARE FACED WITH THE SAME DANGER.

A. THAT IS A QUESTION FOR FORD AND KISSINGER. I ASSUME THAT SAUDI ARABIA WILL PAY FOR SOME OF THE ARMS SENT TO EGYPT. WHAT GURANTEES WE HAVE, IF WE HAVE ANY AT ALL, THAT WE WILL NOT END UP LIKE THE RUSSIOANS, I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. THE ECONOMIC SITUATION, AS EXPLAINED BY MR. UNDERSECRETARY, DOESN'T PROVIDE ANY QUARANTEES THAT THE REGIME OF PRESIDENT SADAT WILL LONG ENDURE. WE WILL MAKE INVESTMENTS, THE GOVERNMENT WILL PROVIDE AID, AND FINALLY A NEW "NASSER," OR EVEN A BIGGER COMMUNIST, WILL EXPLOIT THE SITUATION, TAKE OVER POWER, AND NATIONALIZE EVERYTHING. DOES THE FORD ADMINISTRATION TAKE THIS EVENTUALITY INTO CONSIDERATION? WHAT GUARANTEES DOES HE AFFORD THAT THE U.S. TAXPAYER WILL NOT "LOSE HIS SHIRT?" YOU, MR. UNDERSECRETARY ENDED WITH THE QUESTION OF HOW, OR WHETHER WE SHOULD ENTER THIS "OPEN DOOR." I AM FOR GOING IN. THE ADMINISTRATION, HOWEVER, SHOULD ASSURE THAT INITIALLY THE US ARMY WILL GO IN. I GIVE PRECEDENCE TO THE ARMY. MY COMPANY INVESTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN ISRAEL, WHY SHOULDN'T IT INVEST IN EGYPT. BUT OUR INVESTMENTS IN ISRAEL ARE SECURED BY THE ISRAELI ARMY. THE EGYPTIAN ARMY WEILL NEVER BE CAPABLE OF THIS.

A. THAT AGAIN IS A QUESTION FOR HENRY KISSINGER AND GERALD FORD, IF, HOWEVER, THE QUESTIONER DESIRES TO HEAR MY OPINION - I AGREE WITH HIM IN MANY WAYS.

Q. WESTERN EUROPE IS MORE DEPENDENT ON ARAB OIL THAN THE USA. THE PROBLEM OF INVESTMENTS IN EYPGT, THEREFORE, SHOULD BE

PRIMARILY RESOLVED BY WESTERN EUROPE. CAN YOU TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT
THIS PROBLEM?

A. UNOFFICIAL TALKS COVERING THIS PROBLEM WERE HELD WITH WEST
EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS, AS WELL AS WITH EUROPEAN FINANCIERS. DURING
THESE TALKS WE EMPHASIZED THESE VERY
FACTS, AS POINTED OUT BY THE QUESTIONER. UP TO THE PRESENT TIME,
HOWEVER, THERE HAVE BEEN NO RESULTS FROM THESE TALKS.
WEST EUROPEANS ARE PERHAPS BETTER ACQUAINTED WITH THE SITUATION
THAN WE ARE. THE MAJORITY OF THEM EMPHASIZED THAT, UNTIL
A STABLE, PERSPECTIVE GOVERNMENT IS INSTALLED IN CAIRO, WESTERN
EUROPE WILL CONTINUE TO BE CAUTIOUS.

Q. FROM THE REACTIONS OF WEST EUROPEANS IT IS OBVIOUS THAT FROM
US THEY EXPECT ACTIVE AND EFFECTIVE MEASURES, AND INTERVENTION
LEADING TO THE FORMATION OF A NEW AND STABLE GOVERNMENT IN CAIRO. WE
ARE AWARE, HOWEVER, THAT OUR HONORED GUEST IS NOT IN A POSITION
TO INFORM US OF THESE STEPS. I WOULD THEREFORE LIKE TO REQUEST HIM,
THAT HE CONVEY OUR OPINIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS AT THE APPROPRIATE
LEVELS FOR THEIR SERIOUS CONSIDERATION, SINCE I CONSIDER THEM
TO BE AN EFFECTIVE SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM.

A. I CAN ASSURE YOU, THAT I WILL DO SO WITH PLEASURE.

Q. IF WE RESOLVE THE PROBLEMS IN EGYPT IN THIS MANNER, SO THAT
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THE INTERESTS OF THE USA WILL BE SECURED, WON'T THIS DAMAGE
ISRAEL?

A. CERTAIN ISRAELI CIRCLES HAVE REACHED SIMILAR CONCLUSIONS.
I ASSUME, HOWEVER, THAT THIS IS ONLY "TEMPORARY JEALOUSY," AND
PERHAPS MISUNDERSTANDING. AS SOON AS THESE CIRCLES COMPREHEND THAT
AN ANTI-COMMUNIST EGYPT IS IN REALITY THEIR ALLY, THEY WILL
CEASE TO BE JEALOUS. US POLITICAL RAPPROCHEMENT WITH EGYPT,
AS WELL AS OTHER FREE ARAB NATIONS, WILL NOT ALTER THE ROLE AND
STANDING OF ISRAEL IN THE MIDDLE
EAST. PRESIDENT FORD ASSURED PREMIER RABIN AND OTHER ISRAELI
LEADERS OF THIS FACT. THE ROLE OF ISRAEL IS IRREPLACEABLE,
AND ISRAEL WILL ALWAYS REMAIN A STaunch ALLY. WE WILL NEVER ALLOW
HER TO BE WEAKENED. TO PROTECT THE EXISTENCE OF THE STATE OF
ISRAEL, THE UNITED STATES IS WILLING TO GO TO THE EXTREME.
A CLEAR INDICATION OF THIS WAS THE DECISION OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE CLOSE OF THE 1973 WAR.

Q. I ASSUME THAT ONE OF THE SOLUTIONS OF HOW TO AID EGYPT WAS
THROUGH SIGNIFICANT AND MAINLY SUBSTANTIAL - AMOUNTING TO BILLIONS
INVESTMENTS. U.S. PRIVATE CAPITAL CANNOT PROVIDE THEM, SINCE THIS IS
A STRATEGIC QUESTION, THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION SHOULD ASSUME THIS

BURDEN. I AM AFRAID, HOWEVER, THAT SOME MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION
,
TO SAY NOTHING OF CONGRESS, DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE POLITICAL AND
STRATEGICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS CONSIDERABLE PROBLEM.

A. AS ONE WHO IS CLOSE TO THE SECRETARY OF TREASURY, I CAN ASSURE
YOU THAT WE HAVE SOUGHT A SIMILAR SOLUTION. UP TO NOW, WITHOUT
RESULTS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROPAGANDA, FORGERY, DOCUMENTS, PRESS RELEASES
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAIRO03080
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770060-0722
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770223/aaaaauoo.tel
Line Count: 395
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 8
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 CAIRO 3079
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3271651
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: APPARENT DISINFORMATION EFFORT IN EGYPT AGAINST U.S. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
TAGS: PFOR, PROP, EG, UR, US, (SADAT, ANWAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5d51f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009